TL6554-07

U.D.T. at UN Decol. Comittee

Petition from Uniao Democratica Timorense (Timorese Democratic Union) to the UN Decolonization Committee, United Nations, New York, July 13, 1994

Presented by Francisco Nicolau, Vice President U.D.T.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Questions of primacy continue unresolved at a level which through the preceding decades has emerged as systematic continuous violation of Human Rights by member states which take part in an organization which declared in 1948 the universality of these same rights whose underlying essence constitute the respect of most elementary and basic rights of man by all civilized states which cohabitate on our planet.

It is precisely because of such violations that there is a necessity for certain vital committees to continue their existence, none more so than the committee for decolonization. This committee would benefit as all if the evolution of states were mature enough to render the reasons for the existence of this committee unnecessary.

But herein lies the difference between the sacred and profane, because on the eastern part of Timor the impunious sentiment of the Indonesian State permits and condones all forms of Human Rights violation which to care has sighted a lack of action which would allow the maturity of civilized and non-barbaric behaviour.

On the contrary in Vienna, Indonesia reached the very heights of political hypocrisy through the nebulous defense of values (such as the right to physical integrity, the right to free expression and the right to life) which human conscience holds sacred as inherent to every human being independent of geographical location, gender and race.

The Timorese people are unwavering in their legitimate defense against Indonesia's aggression since 1975.

In tandem with this sentiment, UDT underwent a reorganization through a congress, held in Lisbon, which restructured the party to make it more efficient with the threat of Indonesia's continuing aggression and any future challenge, particularly in safeguarding the rights of our people in the event of a referendum.

UDT is the historical nationalist party of East Timor. It has never collaborated with Indonesia in Indonesia's push for imperialism. Contrary to what Indonesia has preached about its allegedly signing in Balibo in 1975, UDT has refused to be subjugated or integrated.

In spite of the passing of time, UDT continues to defend vehemently the basic values and principles which formed the basis for its formation in 1975, and which, in spite of its limited funds, has never wavered in its continuing defense of Timorese people's rights to self-determination and independence.

After the congress which saw the election of Mr Joao Carrascalao as President, Ms Maria Helena Pires, Mr Zacarias da Costa, Mr Francisco Nicolau as Vice Presidents and Mr Domingos Oliveira as Secretary General, the Timorese resistance has been invigorated; not only through the rejuvenation of the party but also through the adoption of a structure more suited to the realities of today.

Lamentably the force of the Timorese Nationalist Parties alone are insufficient to curtail the barbarity practised by the Indonesian armed forces. The violation of Universal Human Rights continues almost as an assertion that these Rights will never return to East Timor. As such Pantaleao Amaral, 18 years old, was detained in Dili, in 23/6/94; Duarte Ximenes, 17 years old, was tortured; Sebastiao Fraga Freitas continues to be missing since 12/11/91; Duarte Ximenes, 17 years old, was assassinated in 5/I/94 ... These are examples of common rule which Indonesia implements in East Timor and in other islands where it wishes to maintain its subjugation.

However, Mr Chairman, a day will arrive when President Suharto will learn the lessons of History, and then the process of the decolonization initiated by Portugal and abruptly interrupted by Indonesia invasion of the territory will be translated into the Timorese people's free exercise of their rights to self-determination conducive to acceptable modes of civilized states and not in "ad hoc" models such as those promoted by Indonesia because then and only then will Peace, Justice and Freedom prevail in East Timor.